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## The Federal Suffrage Amendment

Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage

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# The Federal Suffrage Amendment

## A Short Cut To The National Enfranchisement of Women

### TEXT OF THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY AMENDMENT:

ARTICLE.—Sec. 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article.

### STEPS NECESSARY FOR ITS PASSAGE:

1. The amendment must be passed in the United States Senate and House of Representatives by a two-thirds' vote of the members present, a quorum being present. There are 435 members of the House and 96 members of the Senate. If a bare quorum is present in the House (218) members, the amendment must secure 146 favorable votes; if the entire membership of the House is present, the amendment must secure 290 favorable votes. In the Senate the amendment must secure a minimum vote of 33 and a maximum vote of 64.

2. The amendment must then be ratified by a majority in three-fourths (36) of the State Legislatures.

### FEDERAL ACTION IS MORE DIRECT THAN STATE ACTION, BECAUSE:

1. A STATE Constitutional Amendment must usually be passed by a two-thirds' vote of the State Legislature, sometimes twice over; and must then be submitted to a referendum of the male voters of the State. A UNITED STATES Constitutional Amendment, once passed by Congress, needs to secure only a single majority vote in three-fourths of the State Legislatures; and no referendum of the people is necessary.

2. The Federal Amendment thus saves twelve State campaigns. If the amendment is ratified by three-fourths of the States, it becomes a law for the whole nation.

3. A FEDERAL Amendment, once passed by Congress, is passed forever, and is thereafter before the State Legislatures for their consideration. If a State Legislature rejects the Federal Amendment, it can reconsider its action. If it ratifies the amendment, the ratification is final. A STATE constitutional amendment, if rejected by the male voters, must be re-introduced into the State Legislature and the work begun all over again from the very beginning.

4. FEDERAL work saves the expenditure of great sums of money in reaching individual voters scattered over vast areas. Work for the Federal amendment is centered on comparatively few members of Congress and of the State Legislatures—all responsible officials gathered together at National and State Capitals. Work for the STATE amendment must be scattered over the population and territory of thirty-seven States.

5. We have a tremendous leverage in Congress which does not exist in the Legislatures of the thirty-six unfree States. There are in the United States Senate and House, the representatives of millions of enfranchised women. One-fourth of the Senate, one-sixth of the House, and one-fifth of the electoral vote comes from States where women vote in National elections. Nearly 4,000,000 women can vote for President of the United States.



EARLY RATIFICATION BY THREE-FOURTHS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURES IS TO BE LOOKED FOR, BECAUSE:

1. The eleven equal suffrage States, and Illinois, which has Presidential and Municipal suffrage, would ratify the amendment at once. These States are;

Arizona	Illinois	Oregon
California	Kansas	Utah
Colorado	Montana	Washington
Idaho	Nevada	Wyoming

2. Favorable action is to be hoped for in the States whose legislatures have recently voted to refer the question of woman suffrage to the voters, or where the voters by initiative petition have called for a referendum. There are fifteen such States:

Arkansas	Nebraska	Pennsylvania
Iowa	New Jersey	South Dakota
Massachusetts	New York	Tennessee
Michigan	North Dakota	West Virginia
Missouri	Ohio	Wisconsin

3. Out of the remaining twenty-one States, it will not be difficult to secure nine:

Alabama	Louisiana	North Carolina
Connecticut	Maine	Oklahoma
Delaware	Maryland	Rhode Island
Florida	Minnesota	South Carolina
Georgia	Mississippi	Texas
Indiana	New Hampshire	Vermont
Kentucky	New Mexico	Virginia

4. It is to be remembered that in each State only a single majority vote of the State Legislature has to be secured.

In every State where the amendment is passed, it is passed for good; in every State where the amendment is lost, it can be reconsidered.

THE HOPEFULNESS OF THE NATIONAL SUFFRAGE SITUATION MUST BE ESTIMATED BY ITS RATE OF PROGRESS IN THE LAST CONGRESS (THE 63rd), WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN WAS WAGED IN ITS BEHALF.

In the 63rd Congress the amendment, which has been before Congress since 1878,

Was debated for the first time since 1887;

Received a favorable committee report in the Senate, for the first time since 1892;

Was reported to the House of Representatives for the first time since 1894;

Was voted upon in the Senate for the first time since 1887, receiving a majority of one and failing by only eleven of the necessary two-thirds' vote;

Was voted upon in the House for the first time in our history, receiving 174 votes and failing by only 78 of the necessary two-thirds.